

Postal Rate Commission

§ 3002.8

§ 3002.5 Office of Rates, Analysis, and Planning.

(a) The Office of Rates, Analysis, and Planning is responsible for technical (as opposed to legal) analysis and the formulation of policy recommendations for the Commission.

(b) This office provides the analytic support to the Commission for reviewing the record of rate and classification requests, post office closings and other issues which come before the Commission. The functional areas of expertise within this office are:

(1) The economic analysis of the market for postal services including the alternative sources for such services and the users of the service;

(2) The analysis of the operational characteristics of the postal system and its interface with various segments of the economy; and,

(3) The analysis of the costs of operating the Postal Service and how such costs are influenced by the operational characteristics.

(c) These functional activities are combined in the evaluation of the revenue requirements of the Postal Service under possible alternative operating circumstances for the purpose of developing rate structures. They are also used to evaluate the impact of various proposed changes to the Domestic Mail Classification Schedule and the consequences of these changes upon the mailers and upon the revenue requirements and rate structure of the Postal Service.

(d) The office also collects, analyzes and periodically summarizes financial and various other statistical information for use in its ongoing activities and for the development of future methods, techniques and systems of analysis and reporting.

[48 FR 13168, Mar. 30, 1983, as amended at 62 FR 45530, Aug. 28, 1997. Redesignated at 64 FR 58337, Oct. 29, 1999]

§ 3002.6 Office of the General Counsel.

The General Counsel directs and coordinates the functions of the Office of the General Counsel and is directly responsible for the counseling and advisory services set forth in 39 CFR 3000.735-203. In accordance with § 3001.8 of the rules of practice, the General Counsel does not appear as an attorney

in hearings in any proceeding before the Commission and takes no part in the preparation of evidence or argument presented in such hearings. The General Counsel represents the Commission in court proceedings and performs legal research on issues coming before the Commission; advises the Commission on the legal aspects of proposed legislation and rulemaking, the legal aspects of proposed action and policies on procurement, contracting, personnel matters, and other internal legal questions.

[48 FR 13168, Mar. 30, 1983]

§ 3002.7 Office of the Consumer Advocate.

(a) The Office of the Consumer Advocate provides representation for the interests of the general public in Commission proceedings. The office prepares and litigates before the Commission legal and evidentiary presentations in all formal Commission dockets under chapter 36 of title 39, U.S. Code. It also is responsible for maintaining a continuing litigation capability including preparation for consideration of issues likely to reflect the interests of the general public in subsequent proceedings.

(b) The head of this office is responsible for directing both legal and technical personnel to fulfill its functions. The office includes both litigation attorneys and a broad spectrum of technical expertise to analyze and evaluate the diverse economic, cost and market issues before the Commission. During the pendency of a proceeding, personnel serving in the Office of the Consumer Advocate are prohibited from participating or advising as to any intermediate or Commission decision in that proceeding pursuant to the Commission Rules of Practice.

(c) A mission statement regarding the Office of the Consumer Advocate is contained as appendix A to this part.

[48 FR 13168, Mar. 30, 1983, as amended at 64 FR 37402, July 12, 1999]

§ 3002.8 Official seal.

(a) *Authority.* The Seal described in this section is hereby established as the official seal of the Postal Rate Commission.